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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 7 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 28 February and 5 March 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 28 February-5 March 1998

1. In the northern region 50 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil and Tall Afar.

2. In the southern region 680 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Habbariyah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Nukhayb, Qal'at Salih, Diwaniyah, Hamzah, Ali al-Sharqi, Abu Sukhayr, Qal'at Sukkar, Safwan and Umm Qasr.

3. Five violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 0917 hours on 28 February 1998 a formation of two United States aircraft broke the sound barrier over the city of Basrah.

5. At 1015 hours on 4 March 1998 a formation of two United States aircraft broke the sound barrier over the city of Qurnah.

6. At 1226, 1315, 1532, 1812, 1840, 1935, 2015, 2098, 1020, 1040, 1300, 1625, 1357, 1655 and 1505 hours on 20 and 21 February United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr and Faw areas.

7. At 1725, 1730, 1300, 1349, 1607, 1645, 2222 and 2220 hours on 22 and 23 February 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr, Basrah and Faw areas.

8. At 1040, 1310, 1643, 1655, 1705, 1226, and 1247 hours on 27 and 28 February 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr, Basrah and Faw areas.